(c) Government have Been taking several steps from time to time to promote exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

(i) The Technological Upgradation Funds Scheme has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain specified textile machinery to Rs. one crore.

(iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.

(v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

(d) and (e) Incentives to exporters have to be consistent with the World Trade Organisation agreements. Incentives for exports come essentially from commercial factors like price etc. Subject to the WTO, Government implements schemes like duty drawback, Special import licenses, Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), tax exemption etc.

Capital Investment into Carpet Industry By A MNC

†1522. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Government, formed after the general election 1999, have given approval to a multinational

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

company for capital investment in carpet manufacturing industry in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the company and the total capital investment proposal for carpet industry by that company; and

(c) the reasons for giving approval to a multinational company to enter in the small scale and domestic industry of carpet manufacturing by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As per available information, after the General Elections, 99 and subsequent to formation of the new Government, one approval has been granted on 5.11.99 by the Government under Export Oriented Unit scheme to M/s. Wilton Weavers Pvt. Ltd., Disstt. Alappuzha, Kerala for manufacture of carpets with foreign equity participation of 66.67% amounting to Rs. 244.00 lakhs in the paid up capital of Rs. 366 lakhs of the Company. The foreign partner is M/s. BIC Carpets, Belgium. The project is aimed at promoting exports

Import of Textiles from European Countries

1523 SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that an agreement has since been arrived at with the European Commission with regard to the import of textiles from countries of European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far the agreement would be beneficial to India; and